

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - September 13 Minutes

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Wendy Cunningham	
Paul Denis	
Pat McDonough	
Paul Tabor	
Bryan Benson, Solid Waste and Recycling Director, Staff	

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for both the 8/9/2023 and the 8/23/2023 meetings were approved. **Wendy will send copies of the minutes without the DRAFT notation to Bryan for inclusion on the Bowdoinham website.** *Update - done.*

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION - NEW MEMBER DISCUSSION

The town still has the posting for SWC members open, but to date there have been no applicants. Should anyone on the SWC know of someone who would be a good addition they will reach out and encourage the individual(s) to apply.

PROJECT GUIDELINE - HOW/IF TO APPLY

In 2016 the Bowdoinham Board of Selectmen approved a methodology Town committees can use to help facilitate their work and manage potential scope creep. The SWC agreed these guidelines would be helpful in some situations, particularly to manage scope creep as we get into recycling, but do not need to be followed in all situations.

HOUSEHOLD TRASH SURVEY

Effective Survey Guidelines

We reviewed the Effective Survey Guidelines, including identifying goal of survey and making sure questions relate to that goal, seeing questions short and straightforward, using a continuum vs. yes/no responses, avoiding compound questions, and testing survey before distribution.

Draft Survey

Given our limited space the preamble to the survey should state why we are issuing (trash hauler is retiring and want to understand if the citizens want the same approach to trash collection as currently). We will also mention the State Statute the requires the Town to 'provide solid waste disposal services'.

We ended up with 3 questions and a last open space for comments. The 3 questions cover:

- Wanting to continue program as is,
- Should program be financially self sustainable or subsidized by the town out of tax payer funds. In this question we will also reference the current self sustainable level would be ≈ \$3.60/bag.
- How would citizens feel about a new approach of a consolidated trash drop-off point.

Discussion around new approach included Bryan stating while some work would need to be done on the Pond Road site, including making the site a transfer station (**Bryan is going to explore if we can do that easily (he believed we could but will double check)**) and possibly making a new entrance into the site. Trash bags would still require tags but we believe cost of tags would be substantially less than current cost. Some citizens might view this a better option as the Pond Road site is open several days a week. However as Bowdoinham is known for being age (elderly) friendly and this might be a burden to some of this population.

Outlined below is an updated survey draft:

Bowdoinham's trash collection contractor is retiring at the end of our current contract. State Statutes states Towns must provide solid was disposal services, but does not specify how those services be delivered. To help the Solid Waste Committee evaluate and make recommendations please take a minute to answer the following questions:

1. How satisfied with our current approach of having trash picked up roadside?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you believe the program should pay for itself entirely through trash tags or be subsidized by general taxes? Please note current self-sustaining price for trash tags is ≈\$3.60/bag. If trash tag prices are reduced general taxes would increase.

100% Paid
by Tags

75% Paid
by Tags

50% Paid
by Tags

25% Paid
by Tags

0% Paid
by Tags

3. Would you be willing to bring your trash to a central location vs. pick-up if the trash tags were less expensive, for example if cost was reduced by \$1.00/tag?

Very Willing

Somewhat
Willing

Neutral

Generally Not
Willing

Not at all
Willing

4. Comments:

SWC members agreed to use this iteration of the survey to test with family/acquaintances for readability/understandably.

Timing of survey

Plan was to send survey to Town households via postcard, giving the postcards one week in the mail, two weeks for responses and one week to compile the results. Wendy volunteered to do the compilation.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Given the number of postcards that would need to be distributed (a little over 1,400) this cannot be done in-house and would need to be done by a vendor. The vendor would take two weeks to produce, which would not give us sufficient time to gain results and meet deadline for the RFP. In addition cost involved for a vendor to produce would need to go on a warrant and be approved Both these factors mean we need to find a different way to conduct the survey. One possibility would be Facebook; while that might impact responses somewhat it would reduce timing. This will be discussed in the next SWC meeting.

DRAFT RFP REVIEW

The committee reviewed the draft RFP and suggested changes. In general the changes include:

- Revising time line based on when survey results are known. Relative timing will remain approximately the same.

- Question 1- **Bryan will investigate what insurance limits are required currently, both by the Town and the disposal site (Casella). The Palmer contract notes \$400,000.**
- Question 3 will be refined and possibly included in Question 2
- Question 4 will be edited to see if vendor can have the contract with the trash disposal facility vs. the Town having that contract, **Bryan will ask some of his contacts to see if this is a possibility.**
- Question 5 will be eliminated as is and replaces with a question regarding back-up equipment.

A red-lined version will be provided to the committee for the next meeting.

Bryan provided a list of possible Waste Haulers to send the RFP to when it is ready

As timing is tight on some of these issues, particularly providing evaluation and advise on contractor to Board of Selectmen, we discussed the possibility of holding ad hoc meeting(s) if/as needed to meet these guidelines. This is a possibility as long as we communicate to the town in sufficient time prior to meeting and record the ad hoc meeting as usual.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 27, 2023 at 6:00PM.